



In the matter of:	)	Docket No. 19-ERDD-01
	)	
Request for Comments on Draft Solicitation	)	WEBINAR
	)	RE: Comments on Draft Wildfire
_____	)	Resilience Solicitation

## **Notice of Staff Webinar and Request for Comments on Draft Solicitation Wildfire: Assessing and Preparing for Risks under Climate Change**

California Energy Commission staff is developing a competitive Grant Funding Opportunity (GFO) through the Electric Program Investment Charge (EPIC) Program aimed at filling gaps in knowledge of fire science and applying that new knowledge to improve models to assess wildfire risk for electric grid operations and planning. Staff is seeking input from stakeholders on the proposed research approach, and particularly about the questions asked about the proposed research topics at the end of this document. The webinar will be held on:

**Monday, November 5, 2018**  
 9:00 a.m.  
 CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION  
 Webinar  
 Sacramento, California

Remote Access Available by Computer or Phone via WebEx™  
 (Instructions below)

### **Agenda**

The webinar will present research needs regarding the state of wildfire science with respect to grid resilience and then introduce the draft GFO content designed to fill gaps in knowledge of fire science and apply that new knowledge to improve models to assess wildfire risk for grid operations and planning. The presentation will be followed by an opportunity for stakeholders to comment on the draft GFO.

### **Background**

**GFO Background:** Climate change is expected to exacerbate wildfire risk through hotter temperatures, greater moisture deficits even in wetter years, and greater

likelihood of prolonged drought and possibly associated beetle-caused tree mortality. This increased risk is expected to increase outages and damage on both the transmission and distribution grids unless adaptation measures are implemented. Preparing the Investor-Owned Utilities (IOUs) for climate change and wildfire risk needs to be supported by new tools at two scales. The electric utilities will need to increase their wildfire situational awareness and near-term (up to seven days in advance) risk forecasting and analytics at a local scale to ensure resiliency in their operations. San Diego Gas and Electric (SDG&E) has pioneered this space, but it remains a “big data” challenge and needs to be extended to other service territories. On the other hand, utilities and others need long-term (to mid- and late-century) models of wildfire risk to plan for future infrastructure investment that anticipates the effects of climate change. Modeling at both scales would greatly benefit from advances in fire science, particularly in the areas of wind regimes, the effects of unprecedented tree mortality, and fire spread in the wildland-urban interface where the most destructive fires occur. See the attached draft GFO for details about the current state of knowledge and research needs.

A staff workshop was held on July 25, 2018,<sup>1</sup> to solicit oral and written comments from stakeholders to inform the research priorities for both grid resilience and fire prevention. This webinar will give stakeholders the opportunity to react to a more detailed set of proposed research topics.

**GFO Focus:** This draft solicitation would address the following strategic objective identified in the Electric Program Investment Charge (EPIC) Third Investment Plan:

- Subtheme 7.2 Increase the Resiliency of the Electricity System to Climate Change and Extreme Weather Events

The purpose of this solicitation is to help ensure resiliency of the electric grid in the near and long terms in the face of the growing wildfire risk under climate change. The awarded project will fill gaps in knowledge of fire science and apply that new knowledge to improve models to assess wildfire risk for grid operations and planning.

Staff expects that the awardee of this solicitation will be an interdisciplinary team with ample collective expertise in the scientific areas identified in this solicitation. Because bringing together interdisciplinary teams takes significant amounts of effort and time, applications will be due three months from the solicitation release. It is the intent of the Energy Commission that the research team will have an active technical advisory committee to assist in incorporating the rapidly evolving wildfire science and policy. Please see the attached draft GFO for details about the proposed research and project implementation.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.energy.ca.gov/research/notices/#07252018>

## Questions

Energy Commission staff is seeking input from interested stakeholders on the topics in the attached draft GFO. Specifically, staff seeks responses and comments on the following questions:

1. Do any of the topics unnecessarily duplicate research being done by others?
2. Can any of the proposed topics be improved to have a greater impact? If so, which topics, and what specific suggestions would you make to improve the focus?
3. Are there topics not included in the current set of concepts where this EPIC GFO could add significant value? What are the topics and what research would be needed to have a measurable impact?
4. How should IOUs be involved to ensure the science is actionable? Possibilities include:
  - a. Partners in crafting the solicitation (not eligible to apply)
  - b. Advisors on technical advisory committee
  - c. Applicants for grants (not eligible to work on solicitation)
  - d. Partner on applications with other researchers as lead

## EPIC Program Background

EPIC is a ratepayer surcharge authorized by the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC). In December 2011, the CPUC adopted Decision 11-12-035, as modified by Decision 13-01-016, authorizing the collection of EPIC funds for the benefit of electricity ratepayers of Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E), SDG&E, and Southern California Edison (SCE). In May 2012, the CPUC adopted Decision 12-05-037, as modified by Decision 13-04-030, establishing the purposes and governance for the EPIC program and designating the Energy Commission as one of its administrators. On January 11, 2018, the CPUC adopted Decision 18-01-008, which modified and approved the Energy Commission's Proposed *EPIC 2018-2020 Triennial Investment Plan*. The plan sets the framework for providing investments in applied research and development, technology demonstration and deployment, and market facilitation of clean energy technologies and approaches.

The Energy Commission is committed to supporting the inclusion of a diverse group of participants from disadvantaged and underrepresented businesses and communities, including disabled veteran-, women-, LGBTQ- and minority-owned businesses.

To learn how to apply for EPIC solicitations please see [http://www.energy.ca.gov/research/epic/faq.html#how\\_to\\_apply](http://www.energy.ca.gov/research/epic/faq.html#how_to_apply).

For additional information on the EPIC Program, please see [www.energy.ca.gov/research/epic/index.html](http://www.energy.ca.gov/research/epic/index.html).

## Public Comment

**Oral Comments:** Oral comments will be accepted during the webinar. Comments may be limited to three minutes per speaker. Any comments may become part of the public record in this proceeding.

**Written Comments:** Written comments should be submitted by **5:00 p.m. on November 15, 2018**.

Please note that your written and oral comments, attachments, and associated contact information (for example, address, phone number, and email address) become part of the viewable public record. Additionally, this information may become available via Google, Yahoo, and other search engines.

The Energy Commission encourages use of its electronic commenting system. Visit the website at <https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/Ecomment/Ecomment.aspx?docketnumber=19-ERDD-01>.

This will take you to the page for adding comments to this docket. Please enter your contact information, any organization name, and a comment title describing the subject of your comments. You may include comments in the box titled “Comment Text” or attach a file in a downloadable, **searchable format** in Microsoft® Word (.doc, .docx) or Adobe® Acrobat® (.pdf). Maximum file size is 10 MB.

Written comments may also be submitted by e-mailing them (include the docket number 19-ERDD-01 and “Comments on Draft Solicitation Wildfire: Assessing and Preparing for Risks under Climate Change” in the subject line) to the Docket Unit at [docket@energy.ca.gov](mailto:docket@energy.ca.gov).

If you prefer, you may send a paper copy of your comments to:

California Energy Commission  
Docket Unit, MS-4  
Re: Docket No. 19-ERDD-01  
1516 Ninth Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512

## Public Adviser and Other Commission Contacts

The Energy Commission’s Public Adviser’s Office provides the public assistance in participating in Energy Commission proceedings. If you want information on how to participate in this forum, please contact the Public Adviser, Alana Mathews, at [PublicAdviser@energy.ca.gov](mailto:PublicAdviser@energy.ca.gov) or (916) 654-4489, or toll free at (800) 822-6228.

If you have a disability and require assistance to participate, please contact Erica Rodriguez [Erica.Rodriguez@energy.ca.gov](mailto:Erica.Rodriguez@energy.ca.gov) or (916) 654-4425 at least five days in advance.

Media inquiries should be sent to the Media and Public Communications Office at [mediaoffice@energy.ca.gov](mailto:mediaoffice@energy.ca.gov) or (916) 654-4989.

If you have questions on the subject matter of this meeting, please contact David Stoms at [David.Stoms@energy.ca.gov](mailto:David.Stoms@energy.ca.gov) or (916) 327-2381.

## **Remote Attendance**

You may participate in this meeting through WebEx, the Energy Commission's online meeting service. Presentations will appear on your computer screen, and you may listen to audio via your computer or telephone. Please be aware that the meeting may be recorded.

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VIA COMPUTER: Go to <https://energy.webex.com/>. If this event is shown on the list of events, click on its "Join" link. If it is not listed, click the "Unlisted Events" link on the left of your screen and enter the meeting number **923 795 654**. When prompted, enter your name and email address. No meeting password is needed.

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2. International Attendees: Click on the "Global call-in number" link.
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4. To listen over the computer: If you have a broadband connection, and a headset or a computer microphone and speakers, you may use VoIP (Internet audio) by going to the Audio menu, clicking on "Use Computer Headset," then "Call Using Computer."

VIA TELEPHONE ONLY (no visual presentation): Call 1-866-469-3239 (toll-free in the U.S. and Canada). When prompted, enter the unique meeting number above. International callers may select their number from <https://energy.webex.com/energy/globalcallin.php>.

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Please be aware that WebEx audio and on-screen activity may be recorded. WebEx Technical Support is available at 1-866-229-3239.

## **Availability of Documents**

Documents and presentations for this meeting will be available online at <https://www.energy.ca.gov/research/notices/>.

Mail Lists:

EPIC listserv

Research listserv

Climatechange listserv